

ACACIA CALCICOLA, A NEW SPECIES OF IMPORTANCE TO THE ECOLOGY OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARID ZONE

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SUMMARY

This paper describes an *Acacia* which both authors recognized independently as new. In the past, this species was evidently thought to be a known "Gidgee", but was not critically examined. It is widespread in the arid zone of Australia where it commonly forms the tree layer in an open woodland formation on soils with subterranean or exposed secondary limestone.

Acacia calcicola Forde et Ising sp.nov.

Series *Plurinerves* Benth. Fl. Austral., 2: 312 (1864)

Arbor parvula, vel frutex caulis 2-6, usque ad 5 m altus raro 1 m minor; rami patentes, ramuli phyllodiaque erecta, raro pendula; *lignum* durum densissimum, externe flavidum, in centro oleaceo-atro-brunneum; *cortex* trunei et ramorum crassus, sale-brosus, in lacinias longas, angustas, irregulariter dispositas divisus, extus griseo-brunneus, intus rufo-brunneus. *Phyllodia* 5-11 cm longa, linearia, saepe plus minusve falcata, 0·15-0·5 cm lata, vel lanceolata, 0·6-1·0 cm lata, venis numerosis parallelis, incana saepe argentea; apice (foliis lanceolatis exceptis) recurvata uncinata, mucronulata; basi decurrente, parce annulata, glande una rotundata parvula; phyllodia juvenilia saepe exudato brunneo resinoso vestita. *Inflorescentia* axillaria, racemosa pedunculis paucis, saepe supra flores extensa phyllodia et racemos axillares gerentia, usque ad 28 cm longa, raro capitula solitaria pedunculis 3-7 mm longis. *Capitula* globosa, ca. 4 mm diam., floribus 40-60. *Bracteolae* peltatae. *Sepala* 5 libera linearispathulata, lamina pubescentia. *Petala* 5 libera oblanceolata concava, 1·5 mm longa, pubescentia, sepala leviter excedentia. *Ovarium* oblongum pubescens. *Legumen* moniliforme vel interdum paullo constrictum, plerumque plus minusve curvatum 5-10 cm longum ca. 0·6 cm latum. *Semina* in valvis crassis, rugosis longitudinaliter disposita, oblonga ca. 7 × 4 mm; funiculus crasse filiformis, praecipue 2-plicatum; arillus carnosus aureus.

Small tree or tree-like shrub composed of up to six main stems. Attaining 5 m. height rarely reduced to a shrub of less than 1 m. Branches spreading forming a bushy canopy of erect, rarely subpendulous branchlets and phyllodes. Timber hard very dense, sapwood pale yellow, heartwood oily dark brown. Bark thick and rough on all except the smaller branches, closely appressed in long irregularly orientated narrow grey brown strips which are reddish brown underneath. *Phyllodes* 5-11 cm. long, 0·15-1·0 cm. wide, articulate on oblique decurrent brackets, linear to lanceolate, often falcate, the surface finely striate and hoary-silvery; apex recurved (except in lanceolate forms), hooked, minutely mucronate; narrowed at the base with a few annular ridges and a small round

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